

Appl. No. : 10/072,537
Filed : February 8, 2002

REMARKS

The present Amendment is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action dated August 24, 2004. Applicants appreciate the Examiner pointing out the lack of antecedent basis in Claims 60-62 and indicating the allowability of Claims 8, 12-15, 19-25, 27, 28, 37-43, 45-51, 54-56, 58 and 59, 60-62 if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants disagree with the propriety of the outstanding prior art rejections. However, in view of the amendments made herein which moot the rejections and facilitate issuance of the allowable claims, Applicants have no occasion to comment on the merits of those rejections.

Amended Claims

In reliance upon this indication, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 8 and intervening Claims 4 and 6. Claims 4, 6 and 8 have been cancelled. Applicants have amended Claims 3, 5 and 7 to correct their dependency as a result of the cancellation of Claims 4, 6 and 8, and not for reasons of patentability.

Applicants have also amended Claim 16 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 19 and intervening Claim 18. Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled. Applicants have amended Claims 20 and 21 to correct their dependency as a result of the cancellation of Claims 18 and 19, and not for reasons of patentability.

Applicants have amended Claim 25 to reflect an antecedent basis provided in Claim 16 from which Claim 25 depends through Claim 24.

Applicants have also amended Claim 34 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 42 and intervening Claim 35. Claims 35 and 42 have been cancelled. Applicants have amended Claims 36 and 43 to correct their dependency as a result of the cancellation of Claims 35 and 42, and not for reasons of patentability.

Applicants have amended Claims 60 through 62 to remove the antecedent basis deficiency.

New Claims

In reliance upon the Examiner's indication, Applicants have added new Claims 65-269.

Appl. No. : 10/072,537
Filed : February 8, 2002

Claim 65 is essentially Claim 12 in independent form including its base Claim 1 and intervening Claims 9-11. Claims 66-94 depend from new Claim 65 and reflect the remaining subject matter of the dependent claims of base Claim 1. Claims 66-94 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 65 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Claim 95 is essentially Claim 14 in independent form including its base Claim 1. Claims 96-127 depend from new Claim 95 and reflect the remaining subject matter of the dependent claims of base Claim 1. Claims 96-127 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 95 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Claim 128 is essentially Claim 21 in independent form including its base Claim 16 and intervening Claim 18. Claims 129-139 depend from new Claim 128 and reflect the remaining subject matter of the dependent claims of base Claim 16. Claims 129-139 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 128 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Claim 140 is essentially Claim 24 in independent form including its base Claim 16. Claims 141-152 depend from new Claim 140 and reflect the remaining subject matter of the dependent claims of base Claim 16. Claims 141-152 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 140 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Claim 153 is essentially Claim 27 in independent form including its base Claim 16 and intervening Claim 26. Claims 154-164 depend from new Claim 153 and reflect the remaining subject matter of the dependent claims of base Claim 16. Claims 154-164 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 153 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Claim 165 is essentially Claim 37 in independent form including its base Claim 34 and intervening Claims 35 and 36. Claims 166-172 depend from new Claim 165 and reflect the remaining subject matter of the dependent claims of base Claim 34. Claims 166-172 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 165 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Appl. No. : 10/072,537
Filed : February 8, 2002

Claim 173 is essentially Claim 45 in independent form including its base Claim 1. Claims 174-205 depend from new Claim 173 and reflect the remaining subject matter of the dependent claims of base Claim 1. Claims 174-205 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 173 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Claim 206 is essentially Claim 58 in independent form including its base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 57. Claims 207-237 depend from new Claim 206 and reflect the remaining subject matter of the dependent claims of base Claim 1. Claims 207-237 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 206 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Claim 238 is essentially Claim 60 in independent form including its base Claim 1, and also amended to correct an inadvertent antecedent basis defect. Claims 239-269 depend from new Claim 238 and reflect subject matter of certain dependent claims of base Claim 1. Claims 239-269 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 238 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-16, 20-30, 34, 36-41, and 43-269 are pending for consideration. In accordance to the Examiner's comments, Applicants believe that the present Amendments have placed this application in a condition of allowance. No new matter has been added.

Appl. No. : 10/072,537
Filed : February 8, 2002

CONCLUSION


Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe pending Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-16, 20-30, 34, 36-41, and 43-269 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request an indication of the same.

Applicants have endeavored to respond to each of the issues raised by the Examiner. However, if there remain any unresolved issues that could be resolved via a telephone conference, Applicants invite the Examiner to initiate the same with Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for any extensions of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 12/22/04

By: 
Walter Wu
Registration No. 50,816
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

H:\DOCS\WSW\WSW-1539.DOC